U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO.: 10/574,530 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 58777.000019

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims below will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing differentiation of cardiomyocytes from stem cells, comprising culturing stem cells in the presence of a substance that inihibits inhibits BMP signaling to induce differentiation.
- 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of culturing stem cells to induce differentiation comprises a step of forming embryoid bodies by floating aggregation culture.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of culturing stem cells to induce differentiation comprises a step of co-culturing with feeder cells.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of culturing stem cells to induce differentiation comprises a step of plate culturing on a culture container.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, comprising a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during the differentiation-inducing stage.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, comprising a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during pre-differentiation stage.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, comprising a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during pre-differentiation stage, and a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during the differentiation-inducing stage.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the substance that <u>inhibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling is a BMP antagonist.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION No.: 10/574,530 ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 58777.000019

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the BMP antagonist is Noggin, Chordin, fetuin, follistatin, sclerostin, DAN, Cerberus, gremlin, Dante or related proteins thereof.

- 10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the stem cells are mammalian-derived cells having the ability to differentiate into cardiomyocytes in vitro.
- 11. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the mammalian-derived cells having the ability to differentiate into cardiomyocytes are pluripotent stem cells or cells derived therefrom.
- 12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the pluripotent stem cells are embryonic stem cells, cells with a similar morphology to embryonic stem cells, embryonic germ cells, or multipotent adult progenitor cells.
- 13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the pluripotent stem cells are embryonic stem cells.
- 14. (Previously Presented) Cardiomyocytes obtained by the method according to Claim 1.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 5, comprising treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during the first five days of the differentiation-inducing stage.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 5, comprising treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during the first three days of the differentiation-inducing stage.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 7, comprising treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits</u> <u>inhibits</u> <u>BMP</u> signaling during pre-differentiation stage, and a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits</u> <u>inhibits</u> <u>BMP</u> signaling during the first five days of the differentiation-inducing stage.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION No.: 10/574,530 ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 58777.000019

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 7, comprising treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during pre-differentiation stage, and a step of treating the stem cells with the substance that <u>inihibits inhibits</u> BMP signaling during the first three days of the differentiation-inducing stage.